

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Upon entry of this amendment, claim 1 has been amended. Claims 1-3 remain pending.

Claims 1 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vaeth (U.S. Pat. No. 6,035,402) in view of Orton (U.S. Pat. No. 5,297,206). For the reasons set forth below, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections be withdrawn.

With respect to claim 1, it has been amended to clarify that the present invention recites a secure device that can act as its own certificate authority to issue itself a new certificate with a smaller public key and use the new certificate for its own data transfers. Vaeth clearly does not disclose or suggest at least some of the features recited in amended claim 1. For example, the system disclosed in Vaeth merely describes a method whereby a client connects to a registration authority over a web interface. The registration authority authenticates the client and forwards a request for certificate to a certificate authority. The certificate authority, in turn, issues a certificate which the client can then use to protect its communications. There is no mention or suggestion that the certificate authority is able to issue itself a new certificate with a smaller public key and use the new certificate for its own data transfers. Furthermore, while Orton discloses a smaller public key size, Orton describes an entirely different public key crypto system. There is no mention or suggestion that a public key smaller in size than a certificate-signing key is to be used in a secure device that self-issues certificates for its own use. Hence, for at least the foregoing reasons, the amended claim 1 is allowable over the cited art.

With respect to claims 2 and 3, these claims depend from allowable claim 1 and thus at least derive patentability therefrom.

Appl. No. 09/890,178
Amdt. dated July 6, 2004
Reply to Office Action of February 3, 2004

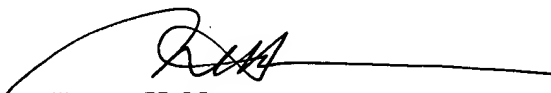
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant believes all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,



Horace H. Ng
Reg. No. 39,315

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: 415-576-0200
Fax: 415-576-0300
Attachments
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